• Sheriff, Local Fire Department Probing Ashes of Sunday's Blaze

(Herald Photo)

PLANT LEVELED . . . Firemen battled a raging blaze in the Torrance Waste Products Co. plant at 213th St. and Cabrillo Ave. for several hours before bringing it under control Sunday afternoon and evening. The building was destroyed and much of the contents ruined.

Salvage Operations Start At Site of Holiday Fire

Sgt. E. Hatcher of the Sheriff's arson squad and Torrance Fire Captain Robert Lucas began a painstaking search of the Pacific Waste Products Co. rubble at 213th St. and Cabrillo Ave. for clues to the origin of the $50,000 blaze which destroyed the warehouse Sunday.

"It is fairly apparent that the fire started somewhere near the north center section of the building," Captain Lucas said yesterday afternoon. However, he indicated that it may take a number of days or a week to sort out the charred bales of scrap and find the exact location of the fire's beginning.

Alex Bernstein, who owned the firm with his brother, Sol Burns, indicated yesterday that he would repair the baler and clean up the salvageable as soon as possible.

Torrance firemen were called out in full force for the holiday fire and four Redondo units were moved into the fight, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner. Redondo Chief Herb Mott Jr. sent two pumpers, a deluge trailer, and a rescue unit to aid the Torrance officers.

Battalion Chief Gene Walker, who commanded fire fighting forces at the fire Sunday, said only a small amount of smoke was visible when firemen arrived. The Torrance department responded after Carmen Covial, a telephone operator of 1532 W. 219th St., noted smoke and called the department.

By the time a hose was laid to the property and the building entered, the flames were spread from wall to wall firemen said. Cause of the blaze is still undetermined.

Bernstein told investigators that he and two friends had been in the firm's office with a real estate salesman about noon on Sunday. About three hours later, they returned to the building, walked around the entire structure discussing it, but did not enter. He said they detected nothing in the way of fire at that time. About an hour later, the entire building was ablaze.

The fire-gutted United Sulphur Co. plant east of the burning warehouse was rekindled and blazed again less than a year after it had burned out. Fire fighting forces were required to divide their strength between the two fires, about a block apart.

Destruction of the Waste Products building was termed a $50,000 loss by its owners. The uninsured scrap inside was worth several thousand more, Bernstein said. An attempt to establish a value of the material on hand is being made, he said.

Families in the trailer court adjacent to the sulphur plant were not forced to evacuate Sunday as they were last year when breezes whipped the strong fumes across the area.

ERA ENDS . . . An association which stretches over the past 30 years in Torrance came to an end this week when Mrs. Pluma Whyte, left, relinquished ownership of the Torrance Herald to King Williams, of Flintridge. Above, Mrs. Whyte shakes hands with Lute Fraser, head bookkeeper of the Herald, who has been with the paper 30 years, and Bob Lewellen, Herald production manager for 25 years; now owner of the Lewellen Press. The occasion was a farewell party given for Mrs. Whyte Monday evening, which was attended by all of the paper's employees and friends of Mrs. Whyte and her husband, Grover, who published the paper until his death last year.

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CHUCKIE LOSES BRAVE STRUGGLE WITH CANCER

A Statement of Policy

This newspaper has been sold and it is only natural that good people, interested in the welfare of this community, should be vitally concerned with the type of management the Torrance Herald will have in the years to come.

As this is the first edition under new management it should present this straightforward statement of policy.

First and foremost, the best interests of Torrance will be served faithfully, persistently and always. Every column at our command is hereby dedicated to any individual or group of individuals sincerely engaged in working for the general welfare of Torrance.

In our book, if you please, human rights transcend property rights. Individuals will find their private lives and legitimate liberties protected from any invasion on our part. We will build reader interest by other means; we want no financial gain from breaking the hearts of others.

We will guard zealously the rights of those who have expressed faith in this community by investment of spirit and material wealth. The manufacturers who have chosen Torrance with their great industrial plants have a right and duty to play an important role in the community of the community and this newspaper always will encourage them.

The business men and the merchants will find this newspaper ever willing to help them make Torrance a better place in which to trade. The advertising columns are open to all legitimate purposes. We solicit this cooperation and support. At the same time we unequivocally guarantee any potential advertiser that he will never be threatened or browbeaten into doing business here. We expect to sell and succeed on merit alone.

While this newspaper always will respect the opinions of others, it reserves the right to have opinions of its own. Our opinions will be found on the editorial page and will be expressed in simple, straightforward language.

Finally, this newspaper is free from any financial, political or moral obligation other than the general welfare of the people of Torrance. We have profound faith in the good future of Torrance and consider it a privilege to have a part in its destiny. We will make mistakes but they will be mistakes of the mind and not of the heart. We earnestly solicit your confidence and support.

KING WILLIAMS,
Publisher

Crews to Repair Homes in Tract

Repair crews are expected to move into Crenshaw Gardens within a week to begin repair operations of the 32 homes in the tract which have been under fire by the State Division of Housing.

City Building Inspector John Russell said yesterday that he had met with Charles Armstrong of the State and a representative of the Princeton Construction Corp., builder of the home tract, and that everything had been set up to begin the work.

The homes have been the center of a controversy recently when residents charged that they were faultily constructed. An investigation by the State Division of Housing led to filing the criminal complaints against the builder, a Civil Service Board hearing on dismissal of two city officials, and a libel suit filed against residents of the tract who circulated charges that the homes were not properly built.

The move by Princeton to repair the homes which have been declared to be unacceptable by the State will pave the way to settlement of all of the differences, most officials feel.

WEATHER

The Weather Bureau foresees low clouds for this morning with hazy sunshine this afternoon and slightly cooler with a high around 74 degrees.

Agnes Bolter Ill

Due to the illness of Agnes Bolter, society editor, it has been necessary to omit many items of importance. The Herald deeply regrets this circumstance and promises faithfully that every effort will be made in the future to give deserved importance to news so kindly given to her department.

NEW COMMANDER . . . Bob Arnett, former adjutant of the Herb S. Strickland Post of the American Legion, was elected to serve the unit as Commander of its drive-in drive-thru Kiddie Korral last week. Arnett will succeed Sylvester Amato in the post for twelve months beginning with this month.

Battle Ends For 'Chuckie' Smith

The battle is over for "Chuckie" Smith.

The silent fighter who every day inspired the thousands of your neighbors who knew it, died peacefully in his sleep Tuesday morning at 8:45 o'clock at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach.

He would have been two years old the months old yesterday. The boy, a victim of malignant cancer, spoke only one period the last week of his life to his mother, Mrs. Robert Smith, of 4824 Cricklewood St.

"He suffered all day Monday," his mother said. "At four o'clock he woke up and said 'I love you, Momma.' Those were the last words he said."

Fund Helps Family

Chuckie's story, when first printed in the Torrance Herald, inspired the local Police Department and the Walteria Businessmen's Association to start a drive for funds to aid the boy's mother and father, who were now in debt with doctor bills. The drive netted $2,478 from generous Torrance citizens.

The cancer had been spreading its deadly poison in "Chuckie's" body since birth. A year ago, doctors discovered the growth behind his right eye. Operations failed to halt it and doctors predicted that the lad would not live to his third birthday. They were right.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, Carson St. and Flower Ave. conducted by the Rev. Paul Wenske.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have asked that instead of flowers, friends make contributions to a memorial fund which will be handled through the First Lutheran Church. The Rev. Wenske will accept donations and will set up a memorial in the church. What it will be has not been decided.

The contributions to the "Chuckie" fund have gotten the Smith family out of debt and will pay for the funeral, Mrs. Smith said.

"Chuckie" is survived by his sister, Roberta Louise, 9; his parents, maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. McCoy of Waterloo, Iowa, who are here for the funeral; and paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Smith, of Garden Grove. Stone and Myers Mortuary handled arrangements.

Three Companies Eager To Lease Land at Airport

Interest in Torrance Municipal Airport property has suddenly reached fever pitch, city officials were told last week by City Manager George Nauman.

Responded to the Council the week were from firms by two foot companies for direct leases agreements, and another were from a third company for the land, Nauman said.

Responded to the Council the Tuesday were officers of the Sheer Blast and Shoemakers companies, both who offered year agreements with similar conditions.

A third firm, Longacre Aviation, has been negotiating with city officials for land to build a new manufacturing site.

At the same time, talks are still continuing on development of the commercial area of the airport now used by Torrance Little League baseball teams.

City officials may soon negotiate leases with commercial developers with the passage this spring of Assembly Bill 88 which extended the leasing period from 25 to 50 years. One developer has been quoted as saying he wants to erect a large department store and create a $15,000,000 center on the Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy. site.

Many of these matters were due to be the subject of discussion by the Councilmen in an informal meeting last night.

THS Cadets To Spend Two Weeks at Ord

A group of 50 members of the California Cadet Corps from Torrance High School will join approximately 2,000 other Cadets for two weeks of field training at Fort Ord June 26-July 9, according to Capt. Walter Sims, Commandant of the local Corps.

The young men receive instruction in basic soldiering, armor training, and the team at each echelon, battalion staff, main base and MTs.

Going on the trip are Cadets Bill Wherrington, First Lieut. Neil Malon, Second Lieut. Wade Garrison, First Sgt. Jerrell Wood, SFC Larry Hartsfield, SFC Mike Luongo, Sgt. Karla Schneweiss, Sgt. Roy Nagano, Sgt. Jack Shiroi, and Sgt. Edward Shaw.

SOUND AS A DOLLAR . . . Dr. H. Veazie Markham, examining physician for the Torrance Unified School District, checks THS student Walton Glance as Jerrell Wood waits his turn. The doctor checked members of the school's California Cadet Corps this week to OK the boys for a trip to Fort Ord June 26 for two weeks of training in the field.

Mrs. J. P. Montague Hurt Slightly in Car Accident

Virginia Montague, wife of Parke Montague, partner in the Torrance Plumbing Co., was slightly injured Tuesday when her car overturned near Deming, New Mexico.

Mrs. Montague and another woman and her daughter, from Wilmington, were on their way to Texas to visit relatives when the accident occurred. None was seriously hurt.

Her husband is at her bedside now, and reports that they are "all doing nicely." The pair live at 1328 Beech Ave.

Development Committee to Study Torrance

Charged with making a survey of the retail, industrial and home development possibilities in Torrance, a New Development Committee has been named by Paul Loranger, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Named on the committee, which President Loranger said would be a "real working group" are: C. T. Rippy, Fay Parks, Sam Levy, Perry Connett, W. A. Felker, Dr. C. L. Ingold, Otto Kresse and Chamber Secretary Dale Isenberg.

First meeting of the new committee will be held at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the Chamber of Commerce quarters.